LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1   1. (Previously presented) A computer implemented method for fulfilling at least one
2   need comprising:
3   receiving at least one request for a product or service;
4   identifying, using a computer or network, a plurality of markets that are capable of
5   fulfilling said at least one request, said identifying step being performed by using said
6   computer or network to search a market database either stored in a storage device
7   associated with said computer or network or which can be accessed electronically by said
8   computer or network to determine equivalent products or services or combinations of
9   products or services to said product or service of said at least one request and which
10   would fulfill any requirements of said at least one request, whereby a plurality of markets
11   that are capable of fulfilling said at least one request is identified from said product or
12   service of said at least one request and said equivalent products or services or
13   combinations of products or services determined using said computer or network;
14   requesting at least one offer to fulfill said at least one request from at least one
15   entity within said identified markets; and
16   communicating at least a portion of offers received in response to said requesting
17   step to a party making the at least one request.

1   2. (Canceled)

1   3. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 1, further
2   comprising facilitating a transaction between said party making the request and at least
3   one of said at least one entity within said plurality of markets identified in said
4   identifying step.

1   4. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 3 wherein the

2   identity of said party making the request is withheld for a period of time from said at least

3   one entity within said plurality of markets identified in said identifying step.

1   5. (Currently amended) The computer implemented method of claim 1 wherein said

2   offers are made through at least one of

3   an open auction;

4   a sealed auction;

5   a series of negotiations; and

6   a posting of a price.

1   6-8. Canceled

1   9. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 1 wherein said

2   offers are offers for exchange of goods or services.

1   10. Canceled.

1   11. (Currently amended) The computer implemented method of claim 1 wherein said

2   communication of at least a portion of said offers includes at least one of

3   an offered price;

4   a description in terms of quality of what is being offered;

5   a description sufficient to identify what is being offered;

6   a description in terms of reliability of said at least one entity within said plurality

7   of markets identified in said identifying step; and

8   a solution to fulfillment of said request.   (

1   12-15. Canceled

1   16. (Previously presented). A data processing system for fulfilling at least one need

2   comprising:

3   means for receiving at least one request for a product or service;

4   means for identifying a plurality of markets that are capable of fulfilling said at

5   least one request, said means for identifying functioning by performing a computerized

6   search of a market database either stored in a storage device associated with a computer

7   that is a part of said means for identifying or which can be accessed electronically by said

8   computer, and using said computerized search to determine equivalent products or

9   services or combinations of products or services to said product or service of said at least

10   one request and which would fulfill any requirements of said at least one request,

11   whereby said means for identifying identifies a plurality of markets that are capable of

12   fulfilling said at least one request from said product or service of said at least one request

13   and said equivalent products or services or combinations of products or services

14   determined using said computerized search;

15   means for requesting at least one offer to fulfill said at least one request from

16   entities within identified markets identified by said means for identifying; and

17   means for communicating at least a portion of offers received in response to a

18   request made by said means for requesting to a party making the at least one request.

1   17. Canceled

1   18. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 16, further comprising

2   means for facilitating a transaction between said party making the request and at least one

3   of said at least one entity within said identified markets.

1   19. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 18 further comprising

2   means for withholding the identity of said party making the request for a period of time

3   from said at least one entity within said identified markets.

1   20-30. Canceled

1   31. (Previously presented) A data processing system for need fulfillment optimization

2   comprising:

3   a memory for storing data comprising market profiles; and

4   a central processing unit coupled to said memory, said central processing unit

5   being capable of:

6   receiving at least one request for a product or service;

7   identifying a plurality of markets that are capable of fulfilling said at least

8   one request, said identifying being performed by using said central processing unit to

9   search said market profiles in said memory to determine equivalent products or services

10   or combinations of products or services to said product or service of said at least one

11   request and which would fulfill any requirements of said at least one request, whereby a

12   plurality of markets that are capable of fulfilling said at least on request is identified from

13   said product or service of said at least one request and said equivalent products or

14   services or combinations of products or services determined using said central processing

15   unit;

16   requesting at least one offer to fulfill said at least one request from at least

17   one entity within said identified markets identified by said central processing unit; and

18   communicating at least a portion of said offers received in response to a

19   request made by said central processing unit to a party making the at least one request.

1   32. Canceled

1   33. (Previously presented) The data processing system for need fulfillment optimization

2   of claim 31, wherein said processing unit is further capable of facilitating a transaction

3   between said party making the at least one request and at least one of said at least one

4   entity within said identified markets.

1   34. (Previously presented) The data processing system for need fulfillment optimization

2   of claim 33 wherein said processing unit is further capable of withholding the identity of

3   said party making the request for a period of time from said at least one entity within said

4   identified markets.

35-45. Canceled

1   46. (Previously presented) A machine readable medium containing a computer program
2   for fulfilling at least one need comprising:
3   code for receiving at least one request for a product or service;
4   code for identifying a plurality of markets that are capable of fulfilling said at least
5   one request, said code for identifying providing instructions for a computer or network to
6   search a market database either stored in a storage device associated with said computer
7   or network or which can be accessed electronically by said computer or network to
8   determine equivalent products or services or combinations of products or services to said
9   product or service of said at least one request and which would fulfill any requirements of
10   said at least one request, whereby a plurality of markets that are capable of fulfilling said
11   at least one request is identified from said product or service of said at least one request
12   and said equivalent products or services or combinations of products or services
13   determined using said computer or network;
14   code for requesting at least one offer to fulfill said at least one request from at
15   least one entity within identified markets identified using said code for identifying; and
16   code for communicating at least a portion of offers received in response to a
17   request made using said code for requesting to a party making the at least one request.

47. Canceled

1   48. (Previously presented) The machine readable medium containing a computer
2   program of claim 46, further comprising code for facilitating a transaction between said
3   party making the request and at least one of said at least one entity within said identified
4   markets.

1   49. (Previously presented) The machine readable medium containing a computer

2   program of claim 48 further comprising code for withholding the identity of said party

3   making the request for a period of time from said at least one entity within said identified

4   markets.

1   50. (Currently amended) The machine readable medium containing a computer program

2   of claim 46 wherein said offers are made through at least one of

3   an open auction,

4   a sealed auction,

5   a series of negotiations,

6   a posting of a price.

1   51-53. Canceled

1   54. (Previously presented) The machine readable medium containing a computer

2   program of claim 46 wherein said offers are offers for exchange of goods or services.

1   55. (Currently amended) The machine readable medium containing a computer program

2   of claim 46 wherein said communication of at least a portion of said offers includes at

3   least one of

4   an offered price;

5   a description in terms of quality of what is being offered

6   a description sufficient to identify what is being offered;

7   a description in terms of reliability of said at least one entity within said plurality

8   of markets identified in said identifying step; and

9   a solution to fulfillment of said request.

56-59. Canceled

1   60. (Previously presented) The machine readable medium containing a computer

2   program of claim 46 further comprising code for said identification to be accomplished in

3   part by processing data from a market database.